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BUTLER, MARTHA ELLEN INTERVIEW.

#4932

125

INDEX CARDS

Old Oklahoma

GEOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

126

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) July 20 1937

1. Name Martha Ellen Butler

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 515 East Ayers

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 1 Year 1888

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father William Blackston Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Born in 1867

7. Name of Mother Ollie Blackston Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Born in 1871

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_

Mildred B. McFarland,  
Interviewer,  
July 20, 1937.

Interview with Martha Ellen Butler  
515 East Ayers Street  
Edmond, Oklahoma

At the age of seven years, I came here with my parents from Arkansas, fifteen miles west of Little Rock. We started out in ten covered wagons. There were six families, all relatives. There were thirty-eight persons in all, counting the children.

One baby was born on the way.

It took us nine weeks to make the trip. We had four large tents and we cooked on a campfire. My father killed two deer, one of which we children ran down. We chased it for two miles before my father could shoot it. We found plenty of rabbits, squirrel and quail.

There was a terrible storm one night and the wind was so strong that it blew our tents down and left us on our beds out in the rain.

We arrived in Tecumseh on March 2, 1895, on Friday. On Saturday we bought some town lots. My grandfather bought a farm one mile north of Tecumseh. He raised corn and cotton.

Our house had two small rooms, so father put up

- 2 -

our tent right behind the house and we used it for a kitchen for three years. We brought our beds and chairs with us. The rest of our furniture was all homemade. A few shelves across a corner served as a cupboard. Our tables were made of rough lumber. We made some of our dishes out of gourds. We hollowed the gourds out and let them dry. For many years we used the same old gourd water-dipper. We had a wood stove for cooking in the tent and one for heating in the house. After about three years father built a lean-to kitchen. We lived in that same house for twelve years.

My father was section boss for the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

I went to school in Tecumseh.

We moved to Shawnee and several years later we moved to Edmond.

My father was a Frenchman and my mother an Indian, but I am ashamed to say, I do not remember to what tribe she belonged.